

Report Identification Number: RO-15-032 Prepared by: Rochester Regional Office

Issue Date: 5/11/2016

This	s report, prepared pursuant to section 20(5) of the Social Services Law (SSL), concerns:
	A report made to the New York Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR) involving the death of a child.
	The death of a child for whom child protective services has an open case.
X	The death of a child whose care and custody or custody and guardianship has been transferred to an authorized agency.
	The death of a child for whom the local department of social services has an open preventive service case.

The Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) is mandated by section 20 of the SSL to investigate or cause for the investigation of the cause and circumstances surrounding the death, review such investigation, and prepare and issue a fatality report in regard to the categories of deaths noted above involving a child, except where a local or regional fatality review team issues a report, as authorized by law.

Such report must include: the cause of death; the identification of child protective or other services provided or actions taken regard to such child and child's family; any extraordinary or pertinent information concerning the circumstances of the child's death; whether the child or the child's family received assistance, care or services from the social services district prior to the child's death; any action or further investigation undertaken by OCFS or the social services district since the child's death; and as appropriate, recommendations for local or state administrative or policy changes.

This report contains no information that would identify the deceased child, his or her siblings, the parent, parents, or other persons legally responsible for the child, and any members of the deceased child's household.

By statute, this report will be forwarded to the social services district, chief county executive officer, chairperson of the local legislative body of the county where the child died and the social services district that had legal custody of the child, if different. Notice of the issuance of this report will be sent to the Speaker of the Assembly and the Temporary President of the State of New York.

This report may <u>only</u> be disclosed to the public by OCFS pursuant to section 20(5) of the SSL. It may be released by OCFS only after OCFS has determined that such disclosure is not contrary to the best interests of the deceased child's siblings or other children in the household.

OCFS' review included an examination of actions taken by individual caseworkers and supervisors within the social services district and agencies under contract with the social services district. The observations and recommendations contained in this report reflect OCFS' assessment and the performance of these agencies.

RO-15-032 FINAL Page 1 of 12



### Abbreviations

	Relationships	
BM-Biological Mother	SM-Subject Mother	SC-Subject Child
BF-Biological Father	SF-Subject Father	OC-Other Child
MGM-Maternal Grand Mother	MGF-Maternal Grand Father	FF-Foster Father
PGM-Paternal Grand Mother	PGF-Paternal Grand Father	DCP-Day Care Provider
MGGM-Maternal Great Grand Mother	MGGF-Maternal Great Grand Father	PGGF-Paternal Great Grand Father
PGGM-Paternal Great Grand Mother	MA/MU-Maternal Aunt/Maternal Uncle	PA/PU-Paternal Aunt/Paternal Uncle
	Contacts	
LE-Law Enforcement	CW-Case Worker	CP-Case Planner
DrDoctor	ME-Medical Examiner	EMS-Emergency Medical Services
DC-Day Care	FD-Fire Department	BM-Biological Mother
CPR-Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation		
	Allegations	
FX-Fractures	II-Internal Injuries	L/B/W-Lacerations/Bruises/Welts
S/D/S-Swelling/Dislocation/Sprains	C/T/S-Choking/Twisting/Shaking	B/S-Burns/Scalding
P/Nx-Poisoning/ Noxious Substance	XCP-Excessive Corporal Punishment	PD/AM-Parent's Drug Alcohol Misuse
CD/A-Child's Drug/Alcohol Use	LMC-Lack of Medical Care	EdN-Educational Neglect
EN-Emotional Neglect	SA-Sexual Abuse	M/FTTH-Malnutrition/Failure-to-thrive
IF/C/S-Inadequate Food/ Clothing/ Shelter	IG-Inadequate Guardianship	LS-Lack of Supervision
Ab-Abandonment	OTH/COI-Others	
	Miscellaneous	
IND-Indicated	UNF-Unfounded	SO-Sexual Offender
Sub-Substantiated	Unsub-Unsubstantiated	DV-Domestic Violence
LDSS-Local Department of Social	ACS-Administration for Children's	NYPD-New York City Police
Service	Services	Department
PPRS-Purchased Preventive Rehabilitative Services		

### **Case Information**

RO-15-032 FINAL Page 2 of 12



**Report Type:** Child Deceased **Jurisdiction:** Monroe **Date of Death:** 10/13/2015

Age: 10 month(s) Gender: Male Initial Date OCFS Notified: 10/20/2015

#### **Presenting Information**

On 10/13/15, Hillside Children's Center (HCC) (who was doing the pre-adoptive placement reports) was notified by the pre-adoptive mother and father that the subject child (SC) died. On 10/12/15, the child went into respiratory distress and 911 was called. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) stabilized the SC at the home and transported the SC to the hospital to be assessed. In the ambulance, the SC went into respiratory distress for the second time and was stabilized. At the hospital, the SC coded and emergency room doctors worked on the SC for approximately an hour. The SC stopped breathing and died on 10/13/15.

#### **Executive Summary**

This fatality concerns the death of a 10-month-old male that occurred on 10/13/15. According to final anatomic diagnoses the cause of death was respiratory distress with acute bronchophneumonia.

The SC was surrendered by his birth parents to the Spence Chapin Services to Families and Children. Spence Chapin was an adoption agency who had custody of the child and was working with the family to privately adopt the SC. At the time of the SC's death, he was placed in a pre-adoptive home. Spence Chapin and HCC were working together with the pre-adoptive family to complete the home study, home visits and work towards finalization of the adoption.

Although there were medical concerns for the SC, the pre-adoptive parents were attentive to the child's needs. Medical records show multiple visits to the child's pediatrician as well as appropriate decisions to contact 911 for medical transport of the child to the hospital prior to his death.

Spence Chapin and HCC were notified of the SC's death on October 13, 2015.

### Findings Related to the CPS Investigation of the Fatality

#### **Safety Assessment:**

Was sufficient information gathered to make the decision recorded on the:

Safety assessment due at the time of determination?

N/ A

#### **Determination:**

- Was sufficient information gathered to make determination(s) for all allegations as well as any others N/identified in the course of the investigation?
- Was the determination made by the district to unfound or indicate appropriate?

N/A

#### **Explain:**

There was no investigation of this family. HCC provided appropriate contact with the family as needed.

RO-15-032 FINAL Page 3 of 12



Was there sufficient documenta Explain:	surate with appropriate tion of supervisory cons	e and relevant statutory or regulatory requirements? sultation?  E maintained contact with the family to provide assistance	Yes Yes No
	Required Actions	Related to the Fatality	
Are there Required Actions rela	ated to the compliance is	ssue(s)? □Yes ⊠No	
Fatal	ity-Related Informat	ion and Investigative Activities	
	Inciden	t Information	
<b>Date of Death:</b> 10/13/2015		Time of Death: 11:54 PM	
County where fatality incident of Was 911 or local emergency nur Fime of Call: Did EMS to respond to the scen	mber called?	MONROE Yes Unknown Yes	
At time of incident leading to de Child's activity at time of incide	eath, had child used alco		
<ul><li>☑ Sleeping</li><li>☐ Playing</li><li>☐ Other</li></ul>	☐ Working ☐ Eating	☐ Driving / Vehicle occupant ☐ Unknown	
Did child have supervision at tings the caretaker listed in the Hold land time of incident supervisor was impaired.	usehold Composition?		
Fotal number of deaths at incid Children ages 0-18: 1	ent event:		
	Household Compo	osition at time of Fatality	

# HouseholdRelationshipRoleGenderAgeDeceased Child's HouseholdDeceased ChildNo RoleMale10 Month(s)



Deceased Child's Household	Other	No Role	Male	15 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Other	No Role	Female	10 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Other	No Role	Male	8 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Other	No Role	Male	16 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Other	No Role	Male	7 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Other	No Role	Female	7 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Other	No Role	Male	4 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Other	No Role	Male	4 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Other	No Role	Male	2 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Other	No Role	Male	12 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Other	No Role	Male	3 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Other	No Role	Male	1 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Other Adult	No Role	Female	44 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Other Adult	No Role	Male	58 Year(s)

#### **LDSS Response**

There was no LDSS involvement. Spence Chapin responded by contacting HCC to determine whether the family had any specific needs. HCC appropriately responded to any specific needs the family had and provided appropriate contacts with the family.

#### Official Manner and Cause of Death

Official Manner: Pending

**Primary Cause of Death:** From a medical cause

Person Declaring Official Manner and Cause of Death: Hospital physician

#### **Multidisciplinary Investigation/Review**

Was the fatality reviewed by an OCFS approved Child Fatality Review Team? Yes

#### **CPS Fatality Casework/Investigative Activities**

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
All children observed?	×			
When appropriate, children were interviewed?	X			

RO-15-032 FINAL Page 5 of 12



Contact with source?				X		
All appropriate Collaterals contacted?	X					
Was a death-scene investigation performed?				X		
Coordination of investigation with law enforcement?				X		
Was there timely entry of progress notes and other required documentation?	×	[				
Fatality Safety Assessment	Activities	s				
		Yes	No	N	// <b>A</b>	Unable to Determine
Were there any surviving siblings or other children in the househ	old?	X				
Was there an adequate safety assessment of impending or immed in the household named in the report:	iate dan	iger to si	urviving	siblings.	other	children
Within 24 hours?		X		]		
At 7 days?		X		]		
At 30 days?		X		]		
Was there an approved Initial Safety Assessment for all surviving siblings/ other children in the household within 24 hours?	2			]	X	
Are there any safety issues that need to be referred back to the local district?	cal		×	[		
When safety factors were present that placed the surviving						
siblings/other children in the household in impending or immedia danger of serious harm, were the safety interventions, including parent/caretaker actions adequate?	nte			[	×	
Placement Activities in Response to the	Fatality	Investigat	tion			
		Yes	No	N	// <b>A</b>	Unable to Determine
Were there surviving siblings/other children in the household removed as a result of this fatality report/investigation?			×	[		
Legal Activity Related to th	e Fatalit	V				

RO-15-032 FINAL Page 6 of 12



Was there legal activity as a result of the fatality investigation? There was no legal activity

#### Services Provided to the Family in Response to the Fatality

Services	Provided After Death	Offered, but Refused	Offered, Unknown if Used	Needed but not Offered	Needed but Unavaliable	N/A	CDR Lead to Referral
Bereavement counseling		X					
<b>Economic support</b>						×	
Funeral arrangements						×	
Housing assistance						×	
Mental health services						×	
Foster care						×	
Health care						×	
Legal services						×	
Family planning						$\boxtimes$	
<b>Homemaking Services</b>						$\boxtimes$	
Parenting Skills						$\boxtimes$	
<b>Domestic Violence Services</b>						×	
<b>Early Intervention</b>						$\boxtimes$	
Alcohol/Substance abuse						$\boxtimes$	
Child Care						X	
Intensive case management						X	
Family or others as safety resources						×	
Other						X	

#### Additional information, if necessary:

On-going services were being provided to the family by a private adoption agency as there was one child in the home that was still in pre-adoptive status. The private adoption agency will maintain contact with this family through finalization and post-adoption services.

Were services provided to siblings or other children in the household to address any immediate needs and support their well-being in response to the fatality? N/A Explain:

There were no needs or supports identified.

Were services provided to parent(s) and other care givers to address any immediate needs related to the fatality?  $\rm N\!/\!A$ 

**Explain:** 



No service needs were identified by the family.

History Prior to the F	atality
Child Information	
Did the child have a history of alleged child abuse/maltreatment?	No
Was there an open CPS case with this child at the time of death?	No
Was the child ever placed outside of the home prior to the death?	Yes
Were there any siblings ever placed outside of the home prior to the	
Was the child acutely ill during the two weeks before death?	Yes
Infants Under One Year	· Old
During pregnancy, mother:  ☐ Had medical complications / infections	☐ Had heavy alcohol use
☐ Misused over-the-counter or prescription drugs	☐ Smoked tobacco
☐ Experienced domestic violence	☐ Used illicit drugs
☑ Was not noted in the case record to have any of the issues listed	<u>c</u>
Infant was born:	
☐ Drug exposed	☐ With fetal alcohol effects or syndrome
☑ With neither of the issues listed noted in case record	
CPS - Investigative History Three Yea	rs Prior to the Fatality
There is no CPS investigative history within three years prior to the far	tality.
CPS - Investigative History More Than Three	Years Prior to the Fatality
There was no prior CPS history.	
Known CPS History Outside	e of NYS
There was no known CPS history outside of NYS.	
Services Open at the Time of	f the Fatality

RO-15-032 FINAL Page 8 of 12



Family Assessment and Service Plan	(FASP)			
				** **
	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Was the most recent FASP approved on time?			$\boxtimes$	
Was there a current Risk Assessment Profile/Risk Assessment in the most recent FASP?			X	
Required Action(s)				
Are there Required Actions related to compliance issues for provision $\square Yes \  \                               $	s of CPS or	r Preventiv	e services ?	
Preventive Services History				
There is no record of Preventive Services History provided to the deceased other children residing in the deceased child's household at the time of the		deceased ch	ild's sibling	s, and/or the
Foster Care at the Time of the	Fatality			
The deceased child(ren) were in foster care at the time of the fatality?	Yes			
· /	02/19/2015			
Date of placement with most recent caregiver?	04/10/2015			
How did the child(ren) enter placement?	Voluntary l	Placement		
Review of Foster Care When Child was in Foster Care	e at the time	of the Fatali	ty	
	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Does the case record document that sufficient steps were taken to safeguard this child's safety while in this placement?	X			
Did the placement comply with the appropriateness of placement standards?	X			
Was the most recent placement stable?	×			
Did the agency comply with sibling placement standards?			×	
Was the child AWOL at the time of death?		×		

RO-15-032 FINAL Page 9 of 12

Visitation



## NYS Office of Children and Family Services - Child Fatality Report

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Was the visitation plan appropriate for the child?			×	
Was visitation facilitated in accordance with the regulations?			×	
Was there supervision of visits as required?			×	
Casework Contacts				
	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Were face-to-face contacts with the child in the child's placement location made with the required frequency?	×			
Were face-to-face contacts with the parent/relative/discharge resource made with required frequency?	×			
Were face-to-face contacts with the parent/relative/discharge resource in the parent/relative/discharge resource's home made with required frequency?	X			
Were all of the casework contact requirements for contacts with the caretakers made, including requirements for contact at the child's placement location?	X			
Provider Oversight/Training				
	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Did the agency provide the foster parents with required information regarding the child's health, handicaps, and behavioral issues?	×			
Did the provider comply with discipline standards?	X			
Were the foster parents receiving enhanced levels of foster care payments because of child need?			×	
If yes, was foster parent provided a training program approved by OCFS that prepared the foster parent with appropriate knowledge and skills to meet the needs of the child?	X			
Was the certification/approval for the placement current?	X			
Was a Criminal History check conducted? Date: Unknown	X			
Was a check completed through the State Central Register?  Date: 03/04/2015	X			

Page 10 of 12 RO-15-032 **FINAL** 



Was a cl	heck completed through the Staff Exclusion List?		×		
Addition	nal information, if necessary: as no additional information.	I	l		
	Required Action(s)				
Are ther □Yes [	The Required Actions related to the compliance issues for provisi $\overline{\bowtie}$ $N_0$	on of Foste	r Care Serv	vices?	
	Foster Care Placement History	7			
by medic adoptive family ha months to 3/19/15 a SC's med There wa Vulnerab by HCC	ents surrendered the SC to Spence Chapin. On 2/19/15, Spence Chapial staff and found eligible for Early intervention Service. A family home and Spence Chapin requested that HCC complete an adoptical seven adopted children, four birth children and one child whose to 15-years-old. Many of the adopted children had medical complicated provided it to Spence Chapin. The home study did not explore dical needs with another child under the age of two and other child as no documentation HCC or Spence Chapin determined if an adult of Person's Central Register. All other aspects of the home study as were timely and appropriate. On 4/10/15, the pre-adoptive parents with them in a pre-adoptive status. At the time of the SC's death, the	in Monroe on home studentions. HCC the pre-adoption with sere to member of the pre-asigned the asigned	County was dy of the far as pending value completed ptive family ious medical the home wadoptive rependoption agr	identified a mily. At the who were be a home stud s ability to a l needs in the vas listed on orts that were eement and	s a pre- time, the tween 15 dy on manage the the home. the e completed
	Legal History Within Three Years Prior to	the Fatality			
Was the	re any legal activity within three years prior to the fatality inve	estigation?	There was n	o legal activ	ity
	Recommended Action(s)				
Are ther	re any recommended actions for local or state administrative or	· policy cha	nges? ⊠Y	es□No	
Action:	18 NYCRR 421.16 (r) require an adoption study must inquiry the other person over the age of 18 who resides in the home are listed Neither Spence Chapin nor HCC completed the inquiry.				•
	18 NYCRR 421.16(f)(3) states adoptive placements which will reunder the age of two in the home at the same time shall be made of family's ability to care successfully for such a number of infants. It this assessment.	only after a s	study specifi	ically focusi	ng on the

RO-15-032 FINAL Page 11 of 12



18 NYCRR 421.18(d) stated the agency must make placement decisions on the basis of the best interest of the child. This was not assessed by Spence Chapin or HCC.
Corrective Action plans have already been completed by both agencies, therefore no actions are required at this time.

Are there any recommended prevention activities resulting from the review? ☐Yes ☒No

RO-15-032 FINAL Page 12 of 12